

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-21 and add new Claims 39-58 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for responding to a current user command associated with one of a plurality of task/domains, the apparatus comprising:

means for storing cumulative feedback data gathered from multiple users during previous operations of the apparatus and segregated in accordance with the plurality of task/domains;

means for determining ~~[[the]]~~ a current task/domain with which ~~[[the]]~~ a current user command inputted by a user is associated;

means for determining a current response to the current user command based on the basis of that a portion of the stored cumulative feedback data gathered from the multiple users that is associated with the current task/domain;

means for communicating to the user the current response; and

means for receiving from the user current feedback data regarding the current response,

wherein the current feedback data is added to the portion of the stored cumulative feedback data ~~stored in said storing means and~~ associated with the current task/domain.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the current task/domain determining means determines the current [[user]] task/domain by asking the user.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the current task/domain determining means determines the current [[user]] task/domain by inferring the current user task/domain from at least one of past and current user behavior.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:  
the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,  
~~the commands from the user comprise~~ a user command comprises one of a search term query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and  
the current task/domain determining means determines which ~~of the task/domains~~ task/domain is currently intended by asking the user.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:  
the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,  
~~the commands from the user comprise~~ a user command comprises one of a search term query for one of a set of discovery searching task/domains and a signifier for one of a set of signifier mapping task/domains, and

the current task/domain determining means determines which ~~of the task/domains~~  
task/domain is currently intended by asking the user.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,

~~the commands from the user comprise~~ a user command comprises one of a ~~search~~  
~~term query~~ for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping  
task/domain, and

the current task/domain determining means determines which ~~of the task/domains~~  
task/domain is currently intended by examining at least one of past and current user behavior.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for responding to a current user  
command associated with one of a plurality of task/domains, comprising:

determining ~~[[the]]~~ a current task/domain with which ~~[[the]]~~ a current user  
command inputted by a user is associated;

determining a current response to the current user command based on  
~~the basis of previously gathered and stored~~ cumulative feedback data associated with the current  
task/domain, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from previous iterations of  
the method;

communicating to the user the current response;

receiving from the user current feedback data regarding the current response; and

storing the current feedback data,  
wherein the stored current feedback data is added to the stored cumulative  
feedback data ~~gathered and stored during previous iterations of the method and~~ associated with  
the current task/domain.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 7, wherein the current  
[[user]] task/domain is determined by asking the user.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 7, wherein the current  
task/domain is determined by inferring the current task/domain from at least one of past and  
current user behavior.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 7, wherein:  
the method is performed by an apparatus functioning as a server on a wide area  
network,  
~~the commands from the user comprise~~ a user command comprises one of a search  
~~term~~ query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping  
task/domain, and  
the ~~intended~~ current task/domain is determined by asking the user.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 7, wherein:  
the method is performed by an apparatus functioning as a server on a wide area network,

~~the commands from the user comprise~~ a user command comprises one of a search term query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and

the ~~intended~~ current task/domain is determined by examining at least one of past and current user behavior.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing program code executable by a program-controlled apparatus, ~~said code being~~ wherein the code is operable to cause the apparatus to:

determine ~~[[the]]~~ a current task/domain with which ~~[[the]]~~ a current user command inputted by a user is associated;

determine a current response to the current user command based on ~~the basis of previously gathered and~~ stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from previous iterations of the method;

communicate to the user the current response;

receive from the user current feedback data regarding the current response; and

store the current feedback data,

wherein the stored current feedback data is added to the stored cumulative feedback data ~~gathered and stored during previous executions of the code~~ and associated with the current task/domain.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the current [[user]] task/domain is determined by asking the user.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the current task/domain is determined by inferring the current task/domain from at least one of past and current user behavior.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein:

the apparatus functions as a server on a wide area network,

~~the commands from the user comprise~~ a user command comprises one of a ~~search~~ term query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and

the ~~intended~~ current task/domain is determined by asking the user.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein:

the apparatus functions as a server on a wide area network,

~~the commands from the user comprise~~ a user command comprises one of a search term query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and

the ~~intended~~ current task/domain is ~~determines~~ determined by examining at least one of past and current user behavior.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An apparatus for responding to a current user command associated with one of a plurality of task/domains, the apparatus comprising:

a digital storage device that stores cumulative feedback data gathered during previous operations of the apparatus and segregated in accordance with the plurality of task/domains;

a first digital logic device that determines ~~[[the]]~~ a current task/domain with which ~~[[the]]~~ a current user command inputted by a user is associated;

a second digital logic device that determines a current response to the current user command based ~~on the basis of that~~ a portion of the stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain;

a first communication interface that communicates to the user the current response; and

a second communication interface that receives from the user current feedback data regarding the current response,

wherein the current feedback data is added to the portion of the stored cumulative feedback data ~~stored in said digital storage device and~~ associated with the current task/domain.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the first digital logic device determines the current ~~[[user]]~~ task/domain by asking the user.

Claim 19 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the first digital logic device determines the current ~~[[user]]~~ task/domain by inferring the current user task/domain from at least one of past and current user behavior.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein:  
the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,  
~~the commands from the user comprise~~ a user command comprises one of a search term query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and

the first digital logic device determines which ~~of the task/domains~~ task/domain is currently intended by the user by asking the user.

Claim 21 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein:  
the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,  
~~the commands from the user comprise~~ a use command comprises one of a search

term query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and

the first digital logic device determines which ~~of the task/domains~~ task/domain is currently intended by examining at least one of past and current user behavior.

Claims 22-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (new): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of task/domains corresponds to a category that the current user command is to be performed in.

Claim 40 (new): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an objective of the current user command is determined from the current user command, and the determined objective is carried out within the current task/domain determined for the user command.

Claim 41 (new): A method according to Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of task/domains corresponds to a category that the current user command is to be performed in.

Claim 42 (new): A method according to Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:  
determining an objective of the current user command from the current user command; and  
carrying out the determined objective within the current task/domain determined

for the user command.

Claim 43 (new): A method according to Claim 7, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from multiple users.

Claim 44 (new): A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the current of task/domain corresponds to a category that the current user command is to be performed in.

Claim 45 (new): A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the code is operable to cause the apparatus to:

determine an objective of the current user command from the current user command; and

carry out the determined objective within the current task/domain determined for the user command.

Claim 46 (new): A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from multiple users.

Claim 47 (new): An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein each of the

plurality of task/domains corresponds to a category that the current user command is to be performed in.

Claim 48 (new): An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein an objective of the current user command is determined from the current user command, and the determined objective is carried out within the current task/domain determined for the user command.

Claim 49 (new): An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from multiple users.

Claim 50 (new): A method of utilizing feedback, comprising the steps of:

providing a database;

storing in the database a plurality of previous commands in association with a plurality of task/domains respectively corresponding to the plurality of previous commands, wherein the plurality of previous commands have been determined to respectively correspond to the plurality of task/domains based on feedback obtained when each previous command was processed;

inputting a command;

determining a task/domain corresponding to the inputted command based on the plurality of previous commands and the plurality of task/domains stored in the database; and

storing in the database feedback on the inputted command and the task/domain

determined for the inputted command.

Claim 51 (new): A method according to Claim 50, wherein a task/domain comprises an operation to be performed.

Claim 52 (new): A method according to Claim 51, wherein a task/domain comprises a subject area in which the operation is to be performed in.

Claim 53 (new): A method according to Claim 50, wherein the plurality of previous commands have been determined to respectively correspond to the plurality of task/domains based on feedback obtained from multiple users.

Claim 54 (new): A system that utilizes feedback, comprising:

storage means for storing a database of a plurality of previous commands in association with a plurality of task/domains respectively corresponding to the plurality of previous commands, wherein the plurality of previous commands have been determined to respectively correspond to the plurality of task/domains based on feedback obtained when each previous command was processed;

input means for inputting a command; and

determination means for determining a task/domain corresponding to the inputted command based on the plurality of previous commands and the plurality of task/domains stored

in the database,

wherein feedback on the inputted command and the task/domain determined for the inputted command is added to the database.

Claim 55 (new): A system according to Claim 54, wherein a task/domain comprises an operation to be performed.

Claim 56 (new): A system according to Claim 55, wherein a task/domain comprises a subject area in which the operation is to be performed in.

Claim 57 (new): A system according to Claim 54, wherein the plurality of previous commands have been determined to respectively correspond to the plurality of task/domains based on feedback obtained from multiple users.

Claim 58 (new): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the multiple users include the user that inputted the current user command.